

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01 /041 W

----- 041965

R 100620Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1549

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 THESSALONIKI 0418/1

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: WEEKEND NEWS ROUND-UP

REF: THESSALONIKI 0375 , ITEM 4

LOCAL PRESS OVER PAST WEEKEND DOMINATED BY DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION. FOLLOWING WERE LEAD ITEMS:

1. MAJOR FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE GIVEN TO DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PATTAKOS' WHIRLWIND VISIT TO EASTERN MACE-
DONIA AND THRACE ON JULY 8 WHERE, BETWEEN
7:00 A.M. AND 9:00 P.M. HE ADDRESSED GATHERINGS IN
NO LESS THAN TEN COMMUNITIES. IN FRANKLY POLITICAL
BARNSTORM, PATTAKOS URGED AUDIENCES IN EACH LOCALITY
TO "VOTE YES FOR DEMOCRACY" ON JULY 29. TO REPRESENTATIVES OF ORGANIZATIONS AND UNIONS AT EARLY-
MORNING MEETING IN SERRES, PATTAKOS RESPONDED TO
PLEDGES OF SUPPORT THAT "REPUBLIC WHICH WAS PRO-
CLAIMED ON JUNE 1, 1973, WILL CONTINUE WORK OF
(REVOLUTION OF) APRIL 21". AT NOON GATHERING IN
XANTHI, DEPUTY PM REFERRED TO MOSLEM MINORITY PROBLEM,
URGING PEACE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THEM AND
CHRISTIAN NEIGHBORS "SINCE THEY ARE ALL SONS OF SAME
COUNTRY, GREECE". REGARDING HIS OWN FUTURE PROS-
PECTS, PATTAKOS TOLD SAME GROUP (AS HE DID
LAST MONTH IN KASTORIA: REF.) HE "WOULD BE COMING
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REGULARLY AND FOR LONG TIME AND, MOREOVER, FROM NOW

ON WITH VOTE OF GREEK PEOPLE". AFTER HELICOPTERING TO COMMUNITIES ON BULGARIAN AND TURKISH FRONTIERS, PATTAKOS WOUND UP LONG DAY WITH EVENING DEDICATION OF NEW CITY WATER PROJECT IN KAVALA, A SURE-FIRE POLITICAL GRABBER IN THAT PERENIALLY WATER-SHORT COMMUNITY. IN INTRODUCTORY SPEECH, MAYOR EVANGELIOU DID NOT FAIL TO POINT OUT THAT MAJOR SHARE OF 168 MILLION DRACHMA PROJECT COST BORNE BY PUBLIC INVESTMENTS (I.E., NATIONAL GOVERNMENT) BUDGET, WHILE MUNICIPALITY SHARE WAS MINIMAL, AND THAT PRICE OF WATER TO CONSUMER CONCURRENTLY REDUCED TWENTY PER CENT.

2. "MAKEDONIA", USUALLY LIBERAL-OPPOSITION, DEPARTED FROM POLICY OF STRAIGHT NEWS REPORTING AND PUBLISHED JULY 8 LENGTHY FRONT-PAGE INTERVIEW OF ITS POLITICAL EDITOR AVRAMOPOULOS WITH UNDERSECRETARY VYRON STAMATOPOULOS ON ANNOUNCED PLEBISCITE AND ELECTIONS. (INTERVIEW AND FACT OF PUBLICATION OF GOG' S VIEWS IN "TRADITIONALLY LIBERAL PAPER" GIVEN WIDE NATIONAL RADIO AND TV AIRING OVER WEEKEND). ALTHOUGH REITERATING MANY OFT-HEARD LINES, STAMATOPOULOS DEVELOPED THEME THAT NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO REFERENDUM WOULD "UNDERMINE PROCEDURES WHICH WOULD PROMOTE DEMOCRACY". WOULD-BE "NO" (OXI) VOTERS CONSIST OF THOSE WHO, FOR VARIOUS REASONS, WISH PERPETUATION OF PRESENT SITUATION, AND THOSE WHO OPPOSE REGIME AND BELIEVE THAT "OXI" VOTE WILL DISCREDIT IT, WHILE COGNIZANT THAT "NO SERIOUS POLITICAL RESULTS" WILL ENSUE. LATTER SHOULD RECOGNIZE, STAMATOPOULOS SAYS, THAT "TO ACHIEVE ANY POLITICAL RESULTS YOU HAVE TO ACTIVATE DEMOCRATIC MACHINE" AND GREEKS WILL, IN NEXT 18 MONTHS, BE ABLE TO VOTE TWICE, ONCE TO ELECT MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS AND AGAIN FOR DEPUTIES OF PARTIES THEY CHOOSE. AN "OXI" VOTE WOULD MEAN A "SUSPENSION OF DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT, WHICH MR. PAPADOPOULOS GUARANTEES", AND "POLITICAL INACTIVITY FOR AN INDEFINITE TIME". GOVERNMENT CAN GUARANTEE ONLY DEVELOPMENTS PROCEEDING FROM "YES" VOTE, STAMATOPOULOS STATES, WHILE OTHERS WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR RESULTS OF "OXI" DECISION. APPEALING TO YOUNG PEOPLE, STAMATOPOULOS CONTENTS THAT "PROMISING CAREER" AND "UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC LIFE" WOULD BE OFFERED THEM AS RESULT OF REACTIVATION OF POLITICAL LIFE FOLLOWING ON AFFIRMATIVE REFERENDUM. "PEOPLE CAN CHANGE, AND EVEN THE

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PRESIDENT WILL SERVE ONLY ONE TERM", HE CONTINUES, "BUT DEMOCRACY IS A MATTER OF WHOLE GENERATIONS" AND, EXCEPT THOSE CONSTITUTIONALLY EXCLUDED, "NO ONE WILL BE BARRED FROM PUBLIC LIFE OF THE REPUBLIC". FINALLY, IN AN EVIDENT ALLUSION TO THE MONARCHY, STAMATOPOULOS CONTENTS THAT HERETOFORE "POLITICIANS LIKE TSALDARIS, PLASTIRAS, PAPAGOS, KARAMANLIS AND PAPANDREOU WERE NOT ALLOWED TO MAKE USE OF THE MANDATE GIVEN THEM BY THE PEOPLE",

AND THIS SITUATION MUST BE PRECLUDED FOR THE FUTURE.
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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 THESSALONIKI 0418/2

E.O. 6652: N/A

TAGS; PINT, GR

SUBJECT: WEEKEND NEWS ROUND-UP

3. "MAKEDONIA" ALSO PUBLISHED SAME DAY (AS REPORTEDLY DID ALSO "TO VIMA" IN ATHENS) ITEM THAT THERE HAVE BEEN FOUND IN MANY APARTMENT BUILDINGS, SHOPS, MAIL BOXES AND ELEVATORS IN THESSALONIKI A PAMPHLET WRITTEN BY SON OF SPYROS MARKEZINIS ENTITLED "GREEK CROWN AND ITS MINISTERS: SEVEN KINGS, FIVE CONSTITUTIONS, TEN COUPS". PAMPHLET REPORTEDLY BEARS LEGEND "REPRINT ATHENS, 1973" AND INFORMATION IT FIRST APPEARED IN "PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS" PUBLISHED BY "HANSARD SOVIETY" IN LONDON. ARTICLE IS SAID TO UNDERTAKE HISTORICAL REVIEW OF GREEK MONARCHY, WITH EMPHASIS ON CONFLICTS OF CROWN WITH PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY THROUGH 1965 CRISIS WITH PAPANDREOU. SUMMARIZING DEVELOPMENTS IN LATTER CASE, ARTICLE CHARGES THAT "GREEK DYNASTY, ALTHOUGH OF DANISH ORIGIN, NEVER UNDERSTOOD MANNER IN WHICH KINGS REIGN IN NORTH, BUT ON CONTRARY PREFERRED TO ADOPT ITS OWN BALKAN INTERPRETATION".

4. "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" (CONSERVATIVE, PRO-GOG) CARRIED EDITORIAL IN ITS "WEEKLY REVIEW" COLUMN JULY 8 REFERRING TO GOG DENIAL OF RUMORS IN BRITISH

PRESS THAT REFERENDUM WOULD BE POSTPONED, AND CHARGING
POSTPONEMENT BEING SOUGHT BY PARTIES "WHO HAVE INTEREST
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IN OBSTRUCTING POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN WIDE FRAME-
WORK OF REVOLUTION". EDITORIAL ALLEGES BRITISH PRESS,
REFLECTING "UNOFFICIAL BUT INNER VIEWS OF BRITISH FOREIGN
POLICY", HAS LAUNCHED SLANDEROUS CAMPAIGN AGAINST PAPADOP-
OULOS, RELATED TO GREEK DYNASTY CONNECTIONS WITH FOREIGN
OFFICE, ADVERSE BRITISH POSITION TOWARD POLITICAL CHANGE
IN GREECE, AND REPORTED ARRIVAL OF "FORMER KING AND HIS
WIFE AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE". ARTICLE THEN RECALLS THAT
KARAMANLIS RESIGNATION TEN YEARS AGO RESULTED FROM HIS
OPPOSITION TO ROYAL TRIP TO ENGLAND, LEADING TO
"SERIOUS POLITICAL CRISIS AND EVENTS OF 21ST OF APRIL".

5. IN SAME ISSUE, "VORRAS" PUBLISHED ON THIRD PAGE
LENGTHY ARTICLE BY GEORGIOS TSALERAS, MAYOR OF VERRIA,
A TEACHER, MEMBER OF EPOK NATIONAL COMMITTEE, AND
ONE OF LEADING EPOK ACTIVISTS IN NORTHERN GREECE.
TSALERAS WRITES OF IMPORTANCE OF REFERENDUM, BROUGHT ABOUT
BY CIRCUMSTANCES THAT PRODUCED EVENTS OF APRIL 21 AND JUNE 1.
"RIGHT IN EPICENTER" OF THIS HISTORIC PHASE OF NATIONAL
LIFE IS EPOK, SAYS TSALERAS, "WHICH BELIEVES IN NATIONAL
NECESSITY FOR THIS GREAT CHANGE" THAT MARKS BEGINNING
OF "DEMOCRATIC NORMALCY AND COMPLETE RENOVATION".
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